

Commissioners & Lovers of American Freedom Everywhere:

Take a DEEP breath. Then take another and look upon this massive, and I daresay, daunting meeting packet of background materials and proposals – but NOT as everything we will be dealing with within our upcoming March Commission meeting. Look at it instead as a gear-box we will be up-shifting through across our next few meetings to accelerate to our Charge, pun intended.

Start by opening the March Agenda document. There too you I hope you will see a progression between housekeeping and substance to action. In that progression I hope you will notice a “staggering” amount of work, pun intended again, meant to indicate most of the immediate work will actually take over *a couple* of meetings or more to take up and complete.

In the upcoming meeting, for instance, your stalwart Executive Committee and I are serving up draft operational guidelines covering a host of responsibilities and tasks. We not only hope these are responsive to our Retreat learnings, but will, in whatever form you eventually adopt in, improve and speed the functioning of our organization. However, because we recognize these draft guidelines are fairly in-depth in their scope and ambitious in breadth, we ought allow ourselves more than the 1 week you’re getting now to review and think about. We really want them to sink in before having full discussion and making serious decisions about them.

So for THIS meeting please just give ‘em an initial read and bring your initial questions and reactions – especially if those initial reactions indicate an earlier return to the drawing boards!

Look to the end of the March Agenda and you’ll see you even control WHEN that discussion actually takes place, along with when we want to begin taking up the burgeoning host of other issues and tasks. Once we decide that together, we’ll all see our set of tracks into the future!

What I’ll highlight for your serious review and attention first for THIS Commission meeting is:

- The Proposal that we adopt the State Budget Appropriations Crisis as our top and perhaps sole 2007-08 Commission Priority – so read the materials related to that closely and have your thinking together about what shape Commission advocacy needs to take, anticipating you will also be briefed on the State’s Structural Deficit at the meeting itself. Consider the draft guidelines as an initial guide if you find yourself disagreeing with this initial selection of Priority to help you respond with your own.
- The Retreat Flip Chart Transcripts and Summary Notes by Maureen Sheahan – we at least need to ratify whether they accurately reflect what happened **and** hold true to what we believe now, particularly where they concern Commissioner, Executive Committee and Chair roles, clarifications and expectations, while we may still possess memory of that experience.

- Blended through the Agenda are not-so-subtle cues about your potential role(s), activities and public identification as a ***Commissioner*** to your local community and region -- NOT particularly even as an employee and/or representative of your own particular organization: so begin gathering your consciousness, ideas and thoughts about those support needs which would help and strengthen your individual Commissioner position as an “effective and visible consumer advocate” in your area and life.

I am confident familiarity with the draft operational guidelines will add helpful context even before we prepare to decide about those. On the other hand, your focus and attention to these immediate subjects may spark thoughts about needed operational guidelines and I want you to write those down too and build upon them over the next several weeks for later for sharing.

‘Course, you gotta read the January draft minutes too and tell us if they’re accurate, harder though that will be to do at this much later date.

That’s it. RELAX! We’re only going to do some of this now, the rest begins our ramping-up toward April, May and beyond...at the pace we determine together next Monday, the 26th.

Meanwhile let us all be thankful for the heroics and genius of our Executive Committee and Office staff for thinking through and putting together what will be a pivotal Commission meeting. You people are the very best and an inspiration.

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LONG TERM CARE SUPPORTS & SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007 from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1:00 P.M. – What’s Happened

- I. Organizing Ourselves: Internal Commission Scan & Housekeeping
 - A. Introductions
 - B. Approval of January 2007 Minutes
 - C. Review & Approval of March Agenda
 - D. Brief Discussion & Approval of Commission Expectations & Roles drafted at Retreat – our February “Minutes” [Handouts of Retreat Flip Chart Transcriptions + Summary of Flip Charts by Maureen Sheahan]:
 - 1. Commissioner Expectations & Roles
 - 2. Executive Committee Expectations & Roles
 - 3. Chair Expectation & Roles
 - E. Chair’s Report: Commission-Related Activities & Actions Since the Retreat
 - 1. Legislative Advocacy Letter (copy + cover message)
 - 2. CDC Grant Support Letter (Letter + abstract)
 - 3. Draft Commission Operational Guidelines (briefing on handouts seeking initial Commission feedback)
 - a. Draft Guidelines on Public Comment
 - b. Draft Guidelines on Meeting Management
 - c. Draft Guidelines on Priorities & Planning
 - d. Draft Guidelines on SPE Monitoring & Evaluation
 - 4. 2007-08 Commission Priorities Development

1:45 P.M. – What’s Happening Now

- II. External Monitoring & Evaluation: Commission Scan of Systems Issues & Developments
 - A. OLTCCS Director’s Report (+ handouts)
 - 1. Office Activities & Needs
 - 2. SPE Pilots Status [sketching caseloads, outreach & contractor plan progress]
 - 3. State Budget Appropriations Status & Other Timely Public Issues for Commission Awareness
 - B. Public Comment
 - C. Commissioner Reports: Public Concerns & Activities (+ any corresponding handouts)

[optional break @2:30 p.m.]

2:45 P.M. – What Are We Going to Do About It

III. Commission Advocacy & Action

- A. Draft Guidelines & Proposal on 2007-08 Commission Priorities (handout)
- B. Proposed Commission 2007-08 Priority of the State Budget Appropriations
 - 1. Michigan's Fiscal Crisis: How We Got to Where We Are Today plus Background on Michigan's Structural Budget Deficits [20 minutes]
 - Briefing by Medicaid's Medical Care Advisory Council ("MCAC") Chair, **Jan Hudson**, from the Michigan League for Human Services; Senate Fiscal Agency Memo on Further Cuts and MCAC Budget Appropriations Advocacy Letter
 - 2. Commission Discussion of Position on Revenues & Tax Increases
 - 3. Commission Advocacy Strategy on State Budget
- C. Commission Responses to & Actions on Public Comment
- D. Commission Actions on Individual Commissioner Reports
- E. Other Immediate Advocacy Opportunities & Needs

4:00 P.M. – How, When & Where It'll Get Done

IV. Looking Ahead & Adjournment

- A. Future Commission Agenda Items:
 - 1. Further discussion of Commission Workgroups concept, Setting Commission Decision Process & Timetable
 - 2. Executive Committee Composition, State Development & Election Timetable
 - 3. Operational Guidelines Deliberation & Approval
 - 4. 2007-08 Priorities Strategy & Planning
 - 5. Issues Raised by Individual Commissioners
- B. Local Education & Advocacy Activities: Needs and Plans of Individual Commissioners + Uses of Commission Advocacy Letter
- C. Commissioner Meeting Evaluation Remarks & Closing Comments
- D. Next Meeting Dates & Known Locations
- E. Adjournment